

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A latch device for engaging and releasing a striker by push-and-push operations, comprising:

a case having an upper opening for receiving the striker therein,

a latch member disposed inside the case and being able to be switched between an engagement position where the striker is prevented from being removed and a release position where the striker can be removed,

a spring member disposed in the case for urging the latch member to move to the release position,

two sets of generally heart-shaped cam grooves with same shapes symmetrically provided on two sides of the latch member and having generally flat bottom faces, said two sets of cam grooves being provided on two sides of the latch member symmetrically relative to a center plane between the two sides of the latch member, and

a pin member having a general U-shape and including a U-shape intermediate portion disposed on a side opposite to the opening of the case, and ~~edges formed at U-shape side portions, said~~ with edges projecting toward each other to engage and trace the two sets of the cam grooves in a same manner simultaneously, said pin member being disposed inside the case to be able to swing at the intermediate portion.

2. (original) A latch device according to claim 1, wherein said case includes an elastic supporting piece for supporting the U-shape intermediate portion of the pin member with a predetermined pressure, and vertical ribs for limiting the U-shape side portions of the pin member in positions together with corresponding inner side faces of the case.

3. (original) A latch device according to claim 1, wherein said pin member has a width such that the U-shaped side portions are pressed with corresponding inner side faces of the case, and each edge of the U-shape side portions projects inwardly without contacting the groove bottom face of the cam grooves.

4. (currently amended) A latch device according to claim 1, wherein said latch member includes a sliding member having said cam grooves and ~~an~~ a side opening provided on an upper side from the cam grooves and being able to slide to switch between said release position and said engagement position; and a latch claw pivotally attached to the sliding member, said latch claw projecting from the side opening to engage the striker at the engagement position and generally entering inside the ~~case~~ sliding member in the release position.

5. (original) A latch device according to claim 4, wherein said latch claw has a claw portion at one side, a shaft portion pivotally attached to the sliding member and a projecting portion at a side opposite to the claw portion relative to the shaft portion, and said case has an enlarged portion at one side thereof, said projecting portion sliding along the enlarged portion by a sliding movement of the latch member to allow the claw portion to move in and out from the sliding member.

6. (original) A latch device according to claim 1, wherein said latch member is held at the engagement position by engagements of the cam grooves with the edges of the pin member by a pushing operation against the spring member, said engagements being released by a next pushing operation.

7. (new) A latch device for engaging and releasing a striker by push-and-push operations, comprising:

    a case having an upper opening for receiving the striker therein,

    a latch member disposed inside the case and being able to be

switched between an engagement position where the striker is prevented from being removed and a release position where the striker can be removed, said latch member including a sliding member having a side opening and being able to slide inside the case to switch between said release position and said engagement position, and a latch claw pivotally situated inside the sliding member, said latch claw projecting from the side opening inside the case to engage the striker at the engagement position and being generally located inside the sliding member in the release position,

a spring member disposed in the case for urging the latch member to move to the release position,

generally heart-shaped cam grooves symmetrically provided on two sides of the latch member and having generally flat bottom faces, and

a pin member having a general U-shape and including a U-shape intermediate portion disposed on a side opposite to the opening of the case, and U-shape side portions with edges projecting toward each other to engage and trace the cam grooves, said pin member being disposed inside the case to be able to swing at the intermediate portion.